



AFZX-SA

# FATALITY

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER & FORT POLK  
6661 WARRIOR TRAIL, BUILDING 350  
FORT POLK, LOUISIANA 71459-5339



MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: POV Fatality Safety Alert 05-01

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ANNING OUT

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1. A JRTC and Fort Polk Soldier was recently killed in an accident while driving returning to Fort Polk after a weekend pass. The accident occurred at 0145. The returning from New Orleans to Fort Polk. While driving back on Interstate 10, he median, struck a tractor trailer head-on, and was instantly killed. A Safe Soldier signed prior to his departure.

2. This soldier made a bad choice, starting a four-hour trip on or about midnight likely to fall asleep behind the wheel.

3. This accident could have been prevented. Most POV fatalities occur between because of the onset of fatigue. The majority of accidents occur within the last 12 trip or the last three hours prior to arriving home. Soldiers try to push their endurance last leg of their trip, even though they are too tired to drive safely. Soldiers should at this time and, if needed, should request an extension from their chain of command.

#### 4. Lessons Learned:

a. Always prepare a safe driving plan, to include the return trip, and avoid traveling most dangerous hours when you are most likely to fall asleep behind the wheel.

b. Fully understand the risks associated with extended driving, especially fatigue weather conditions. Incorporate frequent rest stops and avoid driving during peak

c. If you need to stop and rest, you should immediately contact the chain of command. Leaders must know their Soldiers' travel plans and counsel them accordingly.

***THIS ACCIDENT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU. YOU CAN PREVENT IT BY PLANNING ALL OF YOUR DRIVING TRIPS-- EVEN THE SHORT ONES.***

MICHAEL D. BARBERO  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:  
A+

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